Threat of Flooding

antelope valley

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In 1908, nearly six inches of rain fell around the Lincoln area, killing 10 people, leaving hundreds homeless and causing major damage.

In response to the 1908 flood, City officials enclosed the open channel of Antelope Creek in a one mile underground conduit from 23rd and “N” Streets to 19th & Vine Streets.

With the creek and stormwater placed in an underground conduit, citizens began building homes and businesses near the conduit and some directly on top of the conduit.

Over the next 85 years, Lincoln continued to thrive and develop toward the southeast, increasing the flooding threat by replacing water absorbing pastures and row crop fields with additional roof tops and paving.

Antelope Creek Flood

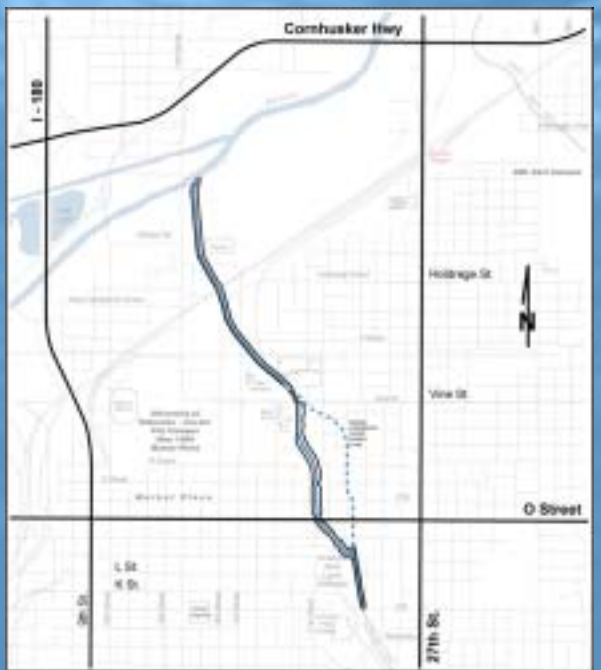
In 1957, flood waters up to 3 feet deep and 5 blocks wide, filled the Antelope Valley from South 48th Street to the University campus.

Holmes Lake Dam

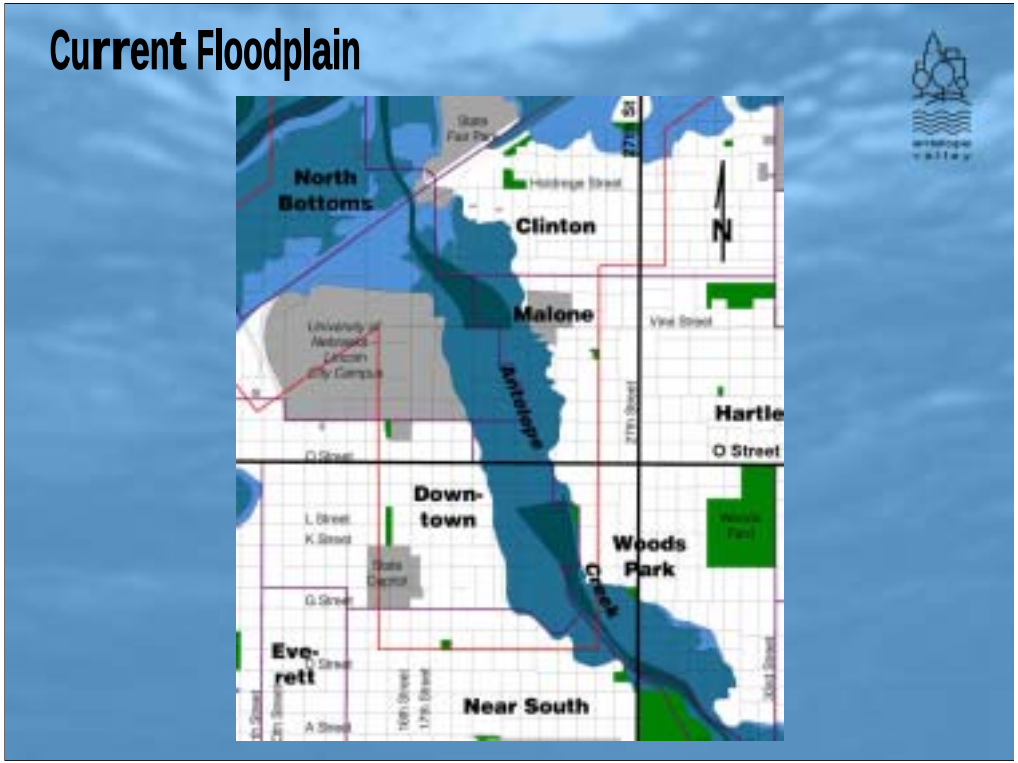
In 1962, construction of the Holmes Lake Dam in the upper third of the Antelope Creek basin helped provide downstream flood protection, but it was not enough. The conduit was still too small to handle the 7 square miles of urbanized area between Holmes Lake Dam and the mouth of the conduit.

Flooding again occurred in 1967 and after.

Solution

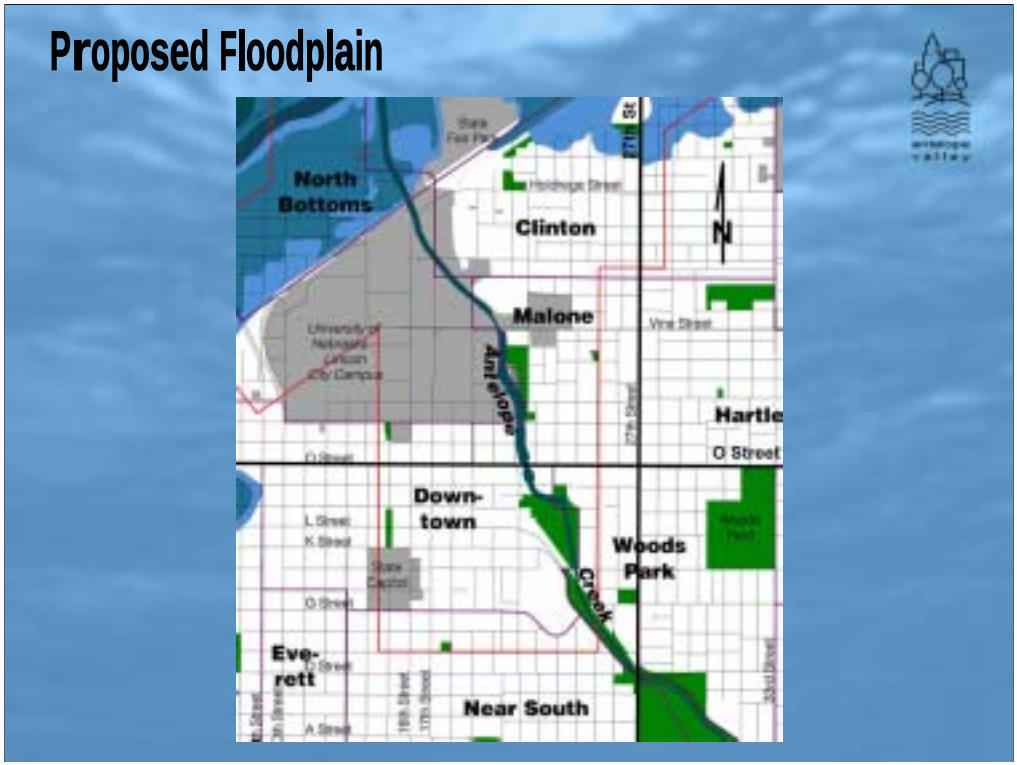


The Solution: Re-open a water channel and re-construct two miles of an aesthetic open waterway to carry more stormwater and reduce the flooding threat.



This map shows the current designated 100-year flood plain for the Antelope Creek drainage basin.

If a 100-year flood occurred, the conduit would overflow by 3 to 6 feet, extending flood waters a half mile wide, flooding over 600 acres, threatening over 1,300 structures and causing over $25 million damage and cleanup expense.



The Antelope Valley Projects call for a new open waterway, 2 miles long along with the conduit, to reduce the 100-year designated floodplain within the new creek banks.

This will free over 800 homes, 200 businesses and 50 acres of the university campus from the threat of 100-year (and smaller) flooding events.